

REMARKS

Claims 1-23 were pending in the Final Office Action dated April 7, 2003 ("Final Office Action"). Claims 1, 3-5, 7, 14-17, 19, and 21-22 have been amended. Claims 24-30 have been previously canceled. Claims 31-33 have been added. No new matter has been added. The rejections of the claims in the Final Office Action are respectfully traversed in light of the amendments and following remarks, and reconsideration is requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-12, 14-16, and 19-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ahuja et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,175,869 hereinafter "Ahuja") in view of Hall et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,138,119 hereinafter "Hall").

In rejecting the claims, the Examiner wrote in part:

Regarding claim 1 . . . Ahuja does not teach the control object and performing by the control object as claimed. However, Hall teaches providing a control object capable of specifying an action depending on the data communication (see col. 18 lines 17-59). . . . Therefore it would have been obvious to have used the control object in Ahuja as taught by Hall because it would provide a way to state rules about an associated digital object and control the usage of digital object based upon control information specified by the rule [so as] to improve ability of controlling usage of resources. (Final Office Action, pages 3-4).

Regarding claim 19 . . . Ahuja does not teach to read the control rights and authorizing a user as claimed. However, Hall teaches activating the control object to open the digital object and to read the control rights associated with the digital object (col.17 lines 33-42); and authorizing a user to implement actions on the digital object according to the control rights (see col. 17 lines 2-42). Therefore, it would have been obvious to have used the control rights in Ahuja as taught by Hall because it would allow only authorized users access to the resources [so as] to increase security for the system. (Final Office Action, pages 5-6).

Regarding claim 21 . . . Ahuja does not teach the control rights as claimed. However, Hall teaches control object which monitors a plurality of user actions and authorizes implementation of the user actions on the digital object according to the control rights (see col. 17 lines 2-12) . . . . Therefore, it would have been obvious to have used the control rights in Ahuja as taught by Hall because it would allow only authorized users access to the resources based on the control rights embedded in digital object [so as] to increase security for the system. (Final Office Action, page 6).

The Examiner further stated:

In this case, the reason to include providing control object and performing the action specified by the control object along with intercepting communication data is to allow[ ] the provider to protect integrity of corresponding content during use of and/or access to the content and allow only authorized users access to the resources based on the control rights embedded in digital object so as to increase the security for the system. (Final Office Action, page 2) (emphasis added).

Applicants submit that there is no teaching, suggestion, or motivation to combine Ahuja and Hall, and the references do not suggest the modifications to the person of ordinary skill in the art. Instead, the references do not even teach or suggest the problem of controlling the usage of digital objects related to statically defined applications and in fact teach away from such a combination.

Hall discloses that a descriptive data structure provides "integrity constraints or rules that protect the integrity of corresponding content during use of and/or access to the content." (Hall, col.12, ll.11-14). Hall further discloses that descriptive data structures are "delivered within content object containers . . . along with associated content" or can be "independently delivered in its own separate container" along with "other forms of association [to content]." (Hall, col.11, ll.24-30). Thus, Hall teaches away from any notion of intercepting user actions between two applications because control rules are already associated with content in Hall and interception of such communication is not necessary or desirable for control over a data object as taught in Hall since additional overhead would be required and efficiency lost. The reasons stated above by the Examiner for combining the references, in particular that the provider can "protect integrity of corresponding content during use of and/or access to the content and allow only authorized users access to the resources based on the control rights embedded in digital object so as to increase the security for the system" (Final Office Action, page 2) are achieved in Hall alone without any suggestion, desire, or necessity for intercepting user actions.

Ahuja simply discloses techniques for "web server allocation" (Ahuja, Title) and for dispatching "client requests to a network service hosted by a pool of servers." (Ahuja, col.2, ll.16-18).

Ahuja further discloses:

The dispatching mechanism for a given client is implemented by a client agent which intercepts client requests generated by that client and routes them to particular ones of the servers in the pool. The client agent bases its routing decisions on address information regarding the individual servers of the pool, as well as performance data regarding processing of previous client requests directed to the service. (Ahuja, col.2, 11.21-28; FIGS. 2 and 3A).

Thus, Ahuja only discloses intercepting a client request for improved dispatching of such requests to a pool of servers and improved performance in providing web sites or other network services hosted by a server pool.

Applicants cannot find any suggestion in Ahuja of providing controls over user actions on a digital object. Furthermore, Applicants cannot find any suggestion in either Ahuja or Hall of the problem of providing flexible control over digital objects related to statically defined applications.

Accordingly, neither Ahuja nor Hall, alone or in combination, disclose or suggest any motivation to combine the references, disclose or suggest the problem solved by the Applicants of the present invention, and instead teach away from such a combination of the references.

Even assuming Ahuja and Hall were combinable, Ahuja in view of Hall fall short of disclosing all the limitations of the independent claims. In particular, Applicants submit that Hall does not disclose or suggest "providing a control object capable of specifying an action on the digital object depending on the intercepted user action," as recited in Claim 1, or "authorizing a user to implement the user action on the digital object depending on the intercepted user action and according to the control rights" as recited in Claim 19, or "an intercept application which . . . performs the user actions on the digital object depending on the intercepted user actions and according to the control rights" as recited in Claim 21.

Hall discloses the following:

Descriptive data structures 200 provided in accordance with the present invention can provide a degree of interoperability between source and target rights management environments. (Hall, col.17, 11.46-49) (emphasis added).

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[A] provider that defines an object within a source rights management environment may create a descriptive data structure for use by processes within one or more target rights management environments. For example, an object creator or other provider can specify, within a descriptive data structure 200, certain rules, integrity constraints and/or other characteristics that can or should be applied to the object after it has been imported into a target rights management environment. (Hall, col.17, ll.56-64) (emphasis added).

In another example, a provider that creates an object outside of any rights management environment can create a descriptive data structure 200 for use if and when the object is imported into one or more rights management environments. (Hall, col.18, ll.5-9) (emphasis added).

FIG. 10A shows an example of how descriptive data structures 200 may be used to provide interoperability. In the FIG. 10A example, a DDS creation tool 800 creates a DDS 200 that includes one or more target data blocks 801. (Hall, col.18, ll.17-20) (emphasis added).

Target data block 801 may provide information used to provide interoperability with a particular target environment 850. A single DDS 200 can, in one example, provide interoperability with N different target environments 850 by including N target data blocks 801(1), . . . 801(N) each corresponding to a different target environment 850(1), . . . 850(N). (Hall, col.18, ll.37-43) (emphasis added).

In this example, each target data block 801 includes rule (control) information. Different target data blocks 801 can provide different rule information for different target environments 850. The rule information may, for example, relate to operations (events) and/or consequences of application program functions 856 within the associated target environment 850. (Hall, col.18, ll.44-50) (emphasis added).

Thus, Hall discloses providing rule information dependent on target environment after the object is imported into a target environment, thereby providing interoperability between source and target environments. Hall does not disclose or suggest rule information dependent on user action. Hall does not disclose or suggest intercepting of a user action or any need or desire to do so.

In contrast, amended Claim 1 recites, "providing a control object capable of specifying an action on the digital object depending on the intercepted user action."

Similarly, Claim 19 recites, "authorizing a user to implement an action on the digital object depending on the intercepted user action and according to the control rights."

Similarly, Claim 21 recites, "an intercept application which intercepts the user actions,

mimics the functionality of the document server application, and performs the user actions on the digital object depending on the intercepted user actions and according to the control rights.”

Therefore, because neither Ahuja nor Hall, alone or in combination, disclose or suggest all the limitations of Claims 1, 19, and 21, Claims 1, 19, and 21 are patentable over Ahuja in view of Hall.

Claims 2-12 and 14-16 are dependent on Claim 1 and contain additional limitations that further distinguish them from Ahuja in view of Hall. Therefore, Claims 2-12 and 14-16 are patentable over Ahuja in view of Hall for at least the same reasons stated above with respect to Claim 1.

Claim 20 is dependent on Claim 19 and contains additional limitations that further distinguish it from Ahuja in view of Hall. Therefore, Claim 20 is patentable over Ahuja in view of Hall for at least the same reasons stated above with respect to Claim 19.

Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ahuja in view of Hall in further view of Ramstrom et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,960,004 hereinafter “Ramstrom”). Ramstrom does not remedy the deficiencies of Ahuja and Hall noted above. Claim 13 is dependent on Claim 1 and contains additional limitations that further distinguish it from Ahuja in view of Hall and further in view of Ramstrom. Therefore, because neither Ahuja nor Hall nor Ramstrom, alone or in combination, disclose or suggest all the limitations of Claim 13, Claim 13 is patentable over Ahuja in view of Hall and further in view of Ramstrom for at least the same reasons stated above with respect to Claim 1.

Claims 17, 18, 22, and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ahuja in view of Hall in further view of Knapton, III (U.S. Pat. No. 6,363,486 hereinafter “Knapton”). In rejecting the claims, the Examiner writes in part that “[r]egarding claims 17 and 22, Ahuja discloses . . . sending editing user actions from the intercept application to the external agent whereby the editing user actions are to be monitored by the external control agent (see col. 2 lines 25-42).”

However, Ahuja only discloses bases for “routing decisions” and “routing strategy” by the client agent. (Ahuja, col.2, ll.25-42). Ahuja does not disclose or suggest an “in-place editing user action” as recited in Claims 17 and 22.

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Knapton does not remedy the deficiencies of Ahuja and Hall noted above. In particular, Applicants submit that neither Ahuja nor Hall nor Knapton, alone or in combination, disclose or suggest, "providing an intercept application which intercepts an in-place editing user action sent from the hosting application; . . . sending the in-place editing user action from the intercept application to the external control agent whereby the in-place editing user action is monitored by the external control agent; . . . and performing the in-place editing user action on the digital object according to the rules of usage," as recited in Claims 17 and 22.

Therefore, because neither Ahuja nor Hall nor Knapton, alone or in combination, disclose or suggest all the limitations of Claims 17 and 22, Claims 17 and 22 are patentable over Ahuja in view of Hall in further view of Knapton.

Claims 18 and 23 are dependent on Claims 17 and 22, respectively, and contain additional limitations that further distinguish them from Ahuja in view of Hall and further in view of Knapton. Therefore, Claims 18 and 23 are patentable over Ahuja in view of Hall and further in view of Knapton for at least the same reasons provided above for Claims 17 and 22, respectively.

For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

#### New Claims

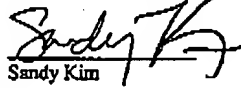
Claims 31, 32, and 33, are dependent on Claims 1, 19, and 21, respectively, and contain additional limitations that further distinguish them from all cited references. In particular, the cited references do not disclose or suggest intercepting a user action including "an in-place edit on the digital object." Therefore, Claims 31, 32, and 33 are patentable over the cited references for at least the same reasons stated above for Claims 1, 19, and 21, respectively.

**CONCLUSION**

For the above reasons, Applicants believe pending Claims 1-23 and 31-33 are now in condition for allowance and allowance of the application is hereby solicited. If the Examiner has any questions or concerns, the Examiner is hereby requested to telephone Applicants' Attorney at (949) 752-7040.

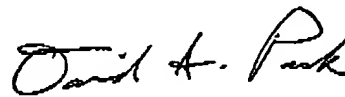
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August 26, 2003

Respectfully submitted,



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